

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 12, 2010 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jonathan Bockman (Reg # 45,640) on March 11, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

22. (Currently Amended) An image processing program product stored on a non-transitory computer- readable medium and executed by a multi-function peripheral capable of at least copying, scanning or printing image data and communicating with a management server, the program product causing said multi-function peripheral to execute the steps of:

inputting image data;

inputting authentication information necessary for authenticating a user;
transmitting said input authentication information to said management server;

in response to the transmission of said authentication information, receiving from said management server additional function information for specifying an additional function registered in association with said user, the additional function being executable by said management server;

accepting specification of said additional function; and

transmitting said additional function information and said input image data to said management server,

wherein said multi-function peripheral comprises a scanner configured to read a document or a printer configured to print image data.

23. (Currently Amended) An information processing program product stored on a non-transitory computer-readable medium, the information processing program product executed by a management server which is capable of communicating with a multi-function peripheral capable of at least copying, scanning or printing image data, the management server and including an additional function list store unit storing an additional function list associating identification information for identifying a user with an additional function executable by the management server,

the program product causing said management server to execute the steps of:

receiving authentication information necessary for authenticating the user;
determining if said received authentication information is true or not;
when said received authentication information is determined to be true, extracting an additional function stored in said additional function list in association with identification information included in said authentication information and transmitting additional function information for specifying said extracted additional function to said multi-function peripheral; and

when image data and said additional function information are received from said multi-function peripheral in response to the transmission of said additional function information,

executing a function to said received image data in accordance with an additional function specified by said additional function information, wherein said multi-function peripheral comprises a scanner configured to read a document or a printer configured to print image data.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-23 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Kuwata was relied upon to disclose generating image data and sends the image data to a proofing system stored on a server so that a user can remotely access the image data by logging onto the proofing system through the web interface installed on a PC. Kuwata does disclose that some functions buttons, which the examiner equated as

functions performed on the image, may be disabled based on logon type, user rights or permissions. However, Kuwata's web interface is part of an interface on a personal computer (PC) as opposed to a multi-function peripheral capable of at least copying, scanning, or printing image data, as claimed. A thorough review of the prior art fails to disclose or render obvious a multi-function printer comprising an "additional function list receiver", which receives the additional selected functions from the management server after authentication, which the additional functions are registered in association with a user, and a function is selected and returned with the print data to the management server so that the selected function can be performed on an image.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chirag R Patel whose telephone number is (571)272-7966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn, can be reached on (571) 272-1915.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information

for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pairedirect.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

/C. R. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 2454

/NATHAN FLYNN/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2454